

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-62 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 11, 14, and 49 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to address the Examiner's comments. Regarding the Examiner's comments regarding independent claims 31-32, these claims have been drafted in "means plus function" language and would cover that disclosed in the specification. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 5, 11, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 5, 11, and 49 have been amended to address the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 5-17, 19, 20, 24-29, 31-36, 38, 39, 43-48, and 50-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Hetzler, U.S. Patent No. 5,954,820. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hetzler discloses a portable computer with adaptive demand-driven power management. Hetzler teaches entering a power-save mode based on access history. That is, actual user

workload is used to determine which power-save mode is most appropriate and when to enter it.

See col. 7, lines 43-45. A decision to enter a specific power-save mode is influenced by the recent access pattern for the component. See col. 8, lines 30-33. Access patterns “may be characterized in terms of frequencies, i.e., the rate at which component accesses occur, and a distinction of frequencies may be determined for the access history.” See col. 8, lines 37-40. The recent access patterns are then utilized to determine when to enter a power save mode.

The Examiner has referred to col. 8, lines 1-29 as being directed to a different embodiment which utilizes keyboard and pointing device activity as evidence of display usage which is utilized to determine whether to enter an IDLE mode and accordingly to control the brightness of the display. However, these lines are not directed to a different embodiment but rather are explanatory disclosure directed to how the Hetzler device determines access history. The access history is then utilized statistically to determine when to exit and enter the power save modes in anticipation of the beginning and end of periodic access. See col. 8, lines 30-51, and more particularly, to col. 8, lines 43-47 of Hetzler. The fact that this portion of the disclosure is under the heading “Component Access Frequency” further supports Applicant’s arguments.

Independent claim 1 recites a method for adjusting a brightness of a display screen of a system, the method comprising determining whether there are user signal inputs into the system, switching the system into an IDLE mode if there are no user signal inputs, determining processor unit usage indicative of whether certain display related processes are running when in

the IDLE mode, and adjusting the brightness of the display screen when in the IDLE mode based on processor unit usage. The method of claim 1 enters the “IDLE” mode absent signal inputs and then determines whether to adjust the brightness of a display screen based on determined processor unit usage indicative of whether certain display related processes are running while in the “IDLE” mode.

Hetzler does not disclose or suggest such features. Rather, as discussed above, Hetzler merely determines whether to enter a power-save mode based on a statistical analysis of recent access history. For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Hetzler. Dependent claims 5-12 and 50-52 are allowable over Hetzler at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The method of independent claim 13 includes determining processor unit activity indicative of whether certain display related processes are running, and dimming a brightness of the display screen when the processor unit activity falls below a minimum threshold.

Hetzler does not disclose or suggest such features. Rather, as discussed above, Hetzler merely determines whether to enter a power-save mode based on a statistical analysis of recent access history. For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that independent claim 13 is not anticipated by Hetzler. Dependent claims 53-54 are allowable over Hetzler at least for the

reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 13, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 14 recites a computer-readable medium having stored thereon a sequence of computer executable instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of monitoring a system to determine whether certain display related processes are running, maintaining the brightness of a display if the certain display related processes are running, and reducing the brightness of a display if the certain display related processes are not running.

Hetzler does not disclose or suggest such features. Rather, as discussed above, Hetzler determines whether to enter a power-save mode based on a statistical analysis of recent access history, not by determining whether certain display related processes are running. For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that independent claim 14 is not anticipated by Hetzler. Dependent claims 15-17, 19-20, 24-29, and 55-56 are allowable over Hetzler at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 14, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 31 recites means for determining processor unit activity indicative of whether certain display related processes are running, and means for dimming a brightness of the display screen when the processor unit activity falls below a minimum threshold.

Hetzler does not disclose or suggest such features. Rather, as discussed above, Hetzler merely determines whether to enter a power-save mode base on a statistical analysis of recent access history. For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that independent claim 31 is not anticipated by Hetzler. Dependent claims 57-58 are allowable over Hetzler at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 31, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 32 recites an apparatus comprising means for monitoring a system to determine whether certain display related processes are running, means for maintaining the brightness of a display if certain display related processes are running, and means for reducing the brightness of a display if certain display related processes are not running.

Hetzler does not disclose or suggest such features. Rather, as discussed above, Hetzler determines whether to enter a power-save mode based on a statistical analysis of recent access history, not by determining whether certain display related processes are running. For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that independent claim 32 is not anticipated by Hetzler. Dependent claims 59-60 are allowable over Hetzler at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 32, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Independent claim 33 recites a method comprising monitoring the system to determine whether display related processes are running, maintaining the brightness of a display if display related processes are running, and reducing the brightness of a display if display related processes

are not running.

Hetzler does not disclose or suggest such features. Rather, as discussed above, Hetzler determines whether to enter a power-save mode based on statistical analysis of recent access history, not by determining whether certain display related processes are running. For at least these reasons, Applicant asserts that independent claim 33 is not anticipated by Hetzler. Dependent claims 34-36, 38-39, 43-48, and 61-62 are allowable over Hetzler at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 33, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claims 18 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hetzler in view of Zenda, U.S. Patent No. 5,386,577. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Zenda is cited merely for detecting low battery state and controlling the luminance based on low battery state, and thus does not overcome the deficiencies of Hetzler, discussed above with respect to independent claims 14 and 33. Accordingly, claims 18 and 37 are allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 14 and 33, from which they depend, respectively, as well as for their added features. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 18 and 37 should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 3, 21, 22, 40, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hetzler in view of McFedries (Windows 98 Unleashed, May 12, 1998). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 2-3, 21-22, and 40-41 are allowable over Hetzler at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 14, and 41, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. McFedries fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hetzler, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching determining a content of a registry. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 4, 23, 30, 42, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hetzler in view of Kardach, U.S. Patent No. 6,018,803. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 4, 23, 30, 42, and 49 are allowable over Hetzler at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 14, and 33, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Kandach fails to overcome the deficiencies of Hetzler as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching determining whether a video process related keyword is contained in the currently operating process (re claims 4, 23, and 42) and wherein the monitoring step comprises determining whether a video process related keyword is contained in the currently operating process. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

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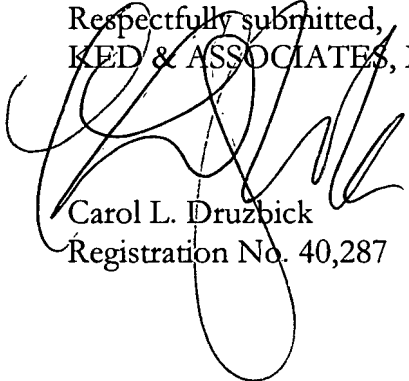
Amdt. dated May 14, 2007

Reply to Office Action of February 26, 2007

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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